

PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW INDEPENDENT STATES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1997 I wrote to the President to express my support for his \$900 million budget request for the New Independent States [NIS] of the former Soviet Union. On April 11, 1997 I received a reply from the President, outlining why he believes his budget request for the NIS serves the American national interest, promotes market and democratic reform, and merits full bipartisan support. I commend the correspondence to the attention of my colleagues. The text follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 17, 1997.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to commend you for your Fiscal Year 1998 budget request for increased funding for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. I support your request for \$900 million, including your Partnership for Freedom initiative to encourage economic growth, sustain civil society and promote people-to-people linkages in the New Independent States.

Your direct involvement and leadership in 1993 made the difference in the decision by Congress to appropriate the very large sum of \$2.5 billion in assistance for the New Independent States. I believe your direct involvement and leadership will also be essential to win Congressional support for your FY 1998 budget request.

Democratic and market reform in Russia and the NIS are in the national security interests of the United States, and your assistance request promotes these critical U.S. interests.

I urge you to speak out in support of your budget request, and to resist earmarks that impair the effectiveness of the U.S. assistance program.

I look forward to working with you in support of this important initiative.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, April 11, 1997.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: Thank you for your letter supporting my FY 1998 budget request for \$900 million to reinforce the next phase of reform in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. These funds will help us seize a historic opportunity: to turn the nascent foundations of market economies in the NIS into competitive, open markets that benefit their citizens and Americans alike.

Already, two-thirds of the people in the NIS live under democratically elected leaders in emerging market economies. Reforms are taking hold, but it is clear that the NIS still has a long way to go. Our timely, targeted investments in democracy and market economies can make the crucial difference.

Priority one is to tackle barriers to investment, lock in economic reform and, at the same time, open the region's vast resources to American business. The changes we support today in tax laws, commercial codes, ju-

dicial systems and legal protections against crime and corruption will resonate for decades to come. And these investments in good policy can leverage billions of dollars in trade and investment, which means jobs for Americans at home.

Priority two is to bolster generational change, and in so doing strengthen the social underpinnings of democracy. Our proposal will allow us to double people-to-people exchanges that will forge lasting ties with today's pioneers of reform and the young people who will be tomorrow's leaders. With carefully targeted support, we can work hand-in-hand with American foundations, universities, business associations and volunteer groups to nurture an emerging civil society. Indeed, the seeds planted today through thousands of reforms and grassroots networks will become a bedrock for pluralism and good governance.

This funding request also gives us the opportunity to complete structural reforms still under way in Ukraine, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Many of these countries face the challenge of completing their privatization programs, restructuring energy systems and unleashing the potential of small business. The impact will be seen in thousands of private sector jobs that will be the driving force for economic growth.

I am even more convinced, following the Helsinki Summit, that the time is ripe for this initiative. President Yeltsin pledged to pursue a bold new reform agenda to stimulate investment and growth in Russia. Our assistance can bolster him in this effort. And the leaders of Ukraine, Georgia and many of the region's other countries have committed to take steps to make reform irreversible.

This initiative—what I call a true Partnership for Freedom—has my strongest commitment. By helping to entrench democratic practices and market economies in the NIS, it advances our overarching national interest in seeing that these countries develop as partners of America. The Partnership for Freedom merits full bipartisan support.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 1997

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify for the record the proper interpretation of this legislation as it relates to the judiciary. First, let me address the issue of assigning numerical ratings to applicants who are veterans. As amended, H.R. 240 does not require the judicial branch to employ a numerical rating system or assign numerical points to veterans. Nor does this legislation in any way authorize executive branch agencies to adjudicate complaints within the judiciary. All that H.R. 240 requires of the judicial branch is to provide the same degree of protection.

Second, concern was expressed about the appropriateness of the use of the term "regulation" for the judicial branch. Its use is appropriate. Although many of the statutes in title 28 regarding the judiciary and judicial procedures use terms such as "guidelines" or "procedures," a number also explicitly refer to "regulations" issued by the Judicial Conference. For example, 28 U.S.C. §§ 153(b), 155(b), 375(h),

1869(k). The use of this term in H.R. 240 is consistent with these statutes. To be sure, it is not the intent of this bill to require the Judicial Conference to follow Administrative Procedure Act—like procedures to which they are not otherwise subject.

Third, questions have been raised regarding the impact of the provision in this legislation that requires consultation with veterans' service organizations. This provision will not impair the independence of the judiciary. It is my understanding that the judicial branch already consults from time to time with various types of groups such as practitioners who routinely appear before the courts, through the Judicial Conference and through various circuit conferences. Veterans' service organizations have a keen understanding regarding veterans' employment problems and could offer valuable assistance to the Judicial Conference in formulating its policies. Finally, all that is required by this provision is consultation not agreement. None of these organizations would have veto power over any regulations promulgated by the judiciary under this provision of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my remarks. As previously noted, my purpose in addressing the above issues is to present the proper interpretation of these provisions for the record.

A SALUTE TO RUTH HAYRE—DE-
FENDER OF PHILADELPHIA'S
CHILDREN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Hayre, grande dame of Philadelphia's public schools. Ms. Hayre recently announced her retirement from the Philadelphia School Board.

Her departure marks the end of a career in city schools that has spanned five decades. Ms. Hayre was an honor graduate of West Philadelphia High School at age 15. By the time she was 20, she had earned her master's degree at the University of Pennsylvania and was headed toward a career in education.

In 1931, Ms. Hayre was denied a teaching job in Philadelphia because of the color of her skin. She joined the school district a decade later as one of the first African-American professionals in the system. Hers was a life of firsts: the first black high school teacher, the first black principal, the first black district superintendent, and the first black woman named to the school board.

Always an advocate for high academic standards, Ruth Hayre in 1988 established a college scholarship program for needy high school students.

In 1946, when she first came to the old William Penn High School for Girls—which was then two-thirds black—Hayre was struck by the way African-American students were pushed into less demanding courses. She complained that one course she was assigned to teach had little value of direction. When she became principal of the school a decade later, she immediately abolished the course.

In 1991, she became the first black woman to serve as president of the Philadelphia School Board. As president, she spearheaded the effort to modernize Philadelphia's schools and to bring the district's curriculum and health education efforts into the 20th century.